stent mounting region having a middle portion, a first end portion adjacent to the middle portion and a second end portion adjacent to the middle portion, the middle portion having a middle portion diameter, the first end portion having a first end portion diameter, the second end portion having a second end portion diameter, in the non-inflated state the middle portion diameter being greater than the first end portion diameter and the second end portion diameter, in the inflated state the balloon providing the middle portion diameter with a diameter substantially the same as that of the fist end portion diameter and the second end portion diameter; wherein when the medical balloon is expanded, the middle portion pushes against the stent before the first end portion and before the second end portion.

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 21 are pending in this application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4, 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, and rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and allowed claims 12 – 21.

By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the limitations of former claim 2, claim 2 is cancelled, and claims 10 and 11 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of claims 10 and 11 in a subsequent application claiming priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12 – 21. However, for the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully assert that all of the claims are directed to allowable subject matter and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejects, under 35 USC § 102, claims 1, 4, 6 and 10 over Fischell et al.

(U.S. Patent No. 6,221,043).

The Office Action also rejects, under 35 USC § 103, claim 9 over Fischell et al.

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8 as being dependent upon rejected base claim 1. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of former claim 2, and claim 2 has been cancelled.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 3 - 9 depend from independent claim 1 and therefore also define patentable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103.

FORMALITIES

If an extension of time is required to make this response timely and no separate petition is enclosed, Applicant hereby petitions for an extension of time sufficient to make the response timely. In the event that this response requires the payment of government fees and payment is not enclosed, please charge Deposit Account No. 22-0350.

CONCLUSION

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3 - 9 and 12 – 21 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Marked Version to Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

VIDAS, ARRETT & STEINKRAUS

Date: March 11, 2003

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Marked Version to Show Changes Made

Claim 1 (twice amended):

A stent delivery system comprising:

a catheter, the catheter having a catheter shaft;

a medical balloon mounted on the catheter shaft, the medical balloon having a non-inflated state and being inflatable to an inflated state, the medical balloon having a stent mounting region, and a stent disposed about at least a portion of the stent mounting region, the stent mounting region having a middle portion, a first end portion adjacent to the middle portion and a second end portion adjacent to the middle portion, the middle portion having a middle portion diameter, the first end portion having a first end portion diameter, the second end portion having a second end portion diameter, in the non-inflated state the middle portion diameter being greater than the first end portion diameter and the second end portion diameter, in the inflated state the balloon providing the middle portion diameter with a diameter substantially the same as that of the fist end portion diameter and the second end portion diameter**; wherein when the medical balloon is expanded, the middle portion pushes against the stent before the first end portion and before the second end portion**.